April 4, 2011

Yesterday’s goals went pretty well. They removed the balloon pump and eliminated a respiratory medicine Flolan. The balloon pump is a six-inch pump that they insert via the same route as the cardiac catheter. They settle the pump in next to the heart and a special pump to which it is attached inflate and deflate the balloon pump in rhythm with his heartbeat. This assists the heart in circulating his blood. So, needlessly to say, removing it is a good thing, and this will become a recurring theme.

Today’s primary goals are weaning him off sedation, removing two of the four drainage tubes in his heart, decreasing his O2, and maintaining his comfort. We all know how Eric likes his comfort. So as we speak (1:34PM) the nurse is removing the drainage tubes because he has drained out pretty well. As for the sedation, this will be tough. Claudia and I both are concerned about this because dad will become increasingly aware of his discomfort. Earlier today they tried to back him off his Propofol (the good stuff) and it didn’t go so well, so they only took him down to half strength. The next step is cold turkey, and they are trying again later today. Yikes. Another nugget of data is that he responded OK to dropping his O2 from 60% to 50% some time yesterday. So that too is an incremental improvement. Claudia and I will get the next steps straight in our next conference with the nurse, but in general, decreasing the O2 and getting off respiration are big hurdles Eric has to overcome.